



Atlanta
Beltline

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES STUDY

Citywide Conversation

Monday, May 18, 2026





Data Collection

In order to meet our promise of a Beltline for all, we are working to collect demographic and geographic information from our participants. This information is strictly for internal reference and research purposes only to guide us in outreach and public engagement efforts and will not be distributed to other organizations.





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Agenda

- Project Recap
- Community Engagement Summary
- Inventory
- Challenges and Opportunities Report
- Historic and Cultural Resource Guidelines
- Next Steps
- Question & Answer



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Virtual Meeting Format

- Your line is muted, and you won't be able to share your video or screen during the meeting.
- A recording of this meeting, the presentation, a copy of tonight's Q&A and all other supporting materials will be made available online at www.beltline.org/meetings.





Our Vision

To be the catalyst for making Atlanta a global beacon for equitable, inclusive, and sustainable life.

22
MILES
of pedestrian-
friendly rail transit

1,100
ACRES
of environmental
cleanup

33
MILES
of multi-use
urban trails

1,300
ACRES
of new
greenspace

\$10B
in economic
development

50K
PERMANENT
JOBS

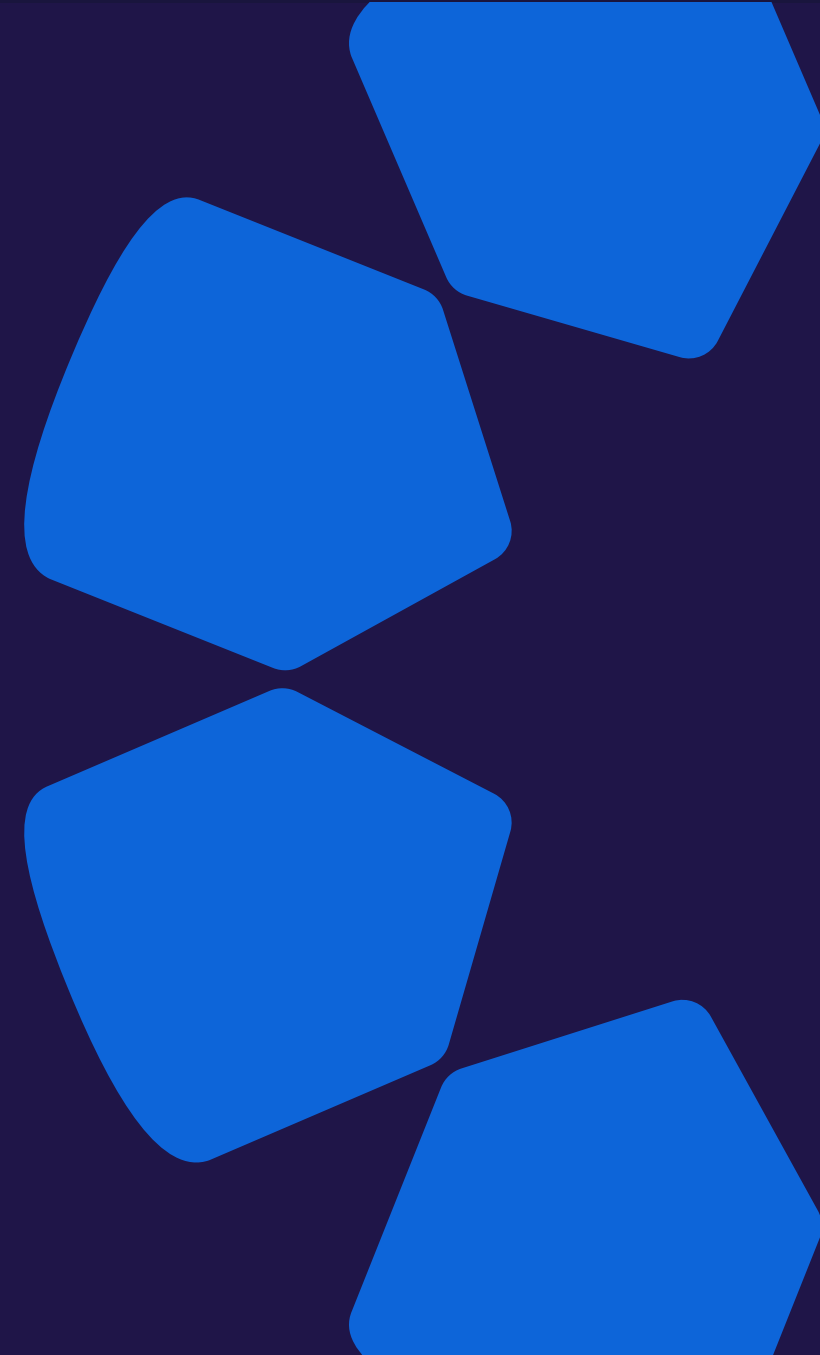
5,600
UNITS
of affordable
workforce housing

48K
CONSTRUCTION
JOBS



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Project Recap



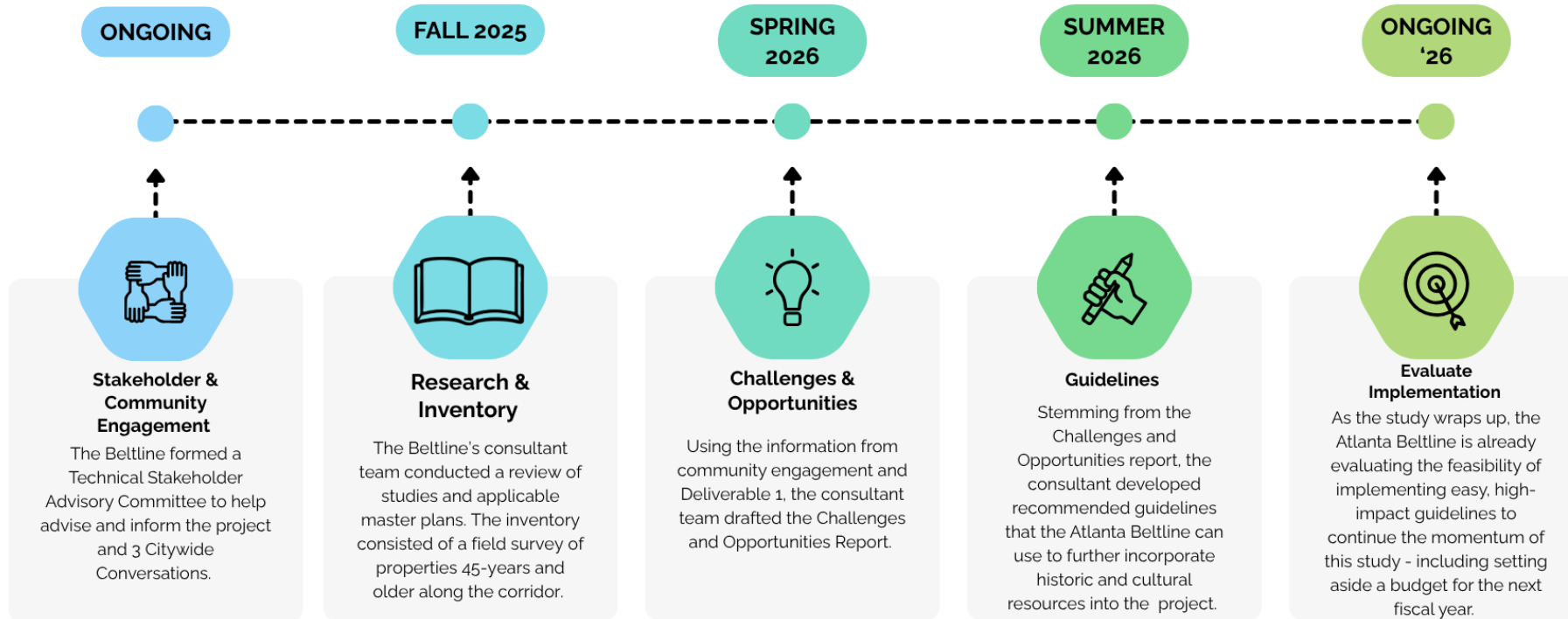


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Project Recap

PROJECT MILESTONES

Historic and Cultural Resources Study





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Community Engagement Recap

- Ongoing Technical Stakeholder Engagement
- Fall Engagement: Virtual Citywide Conversation (September)
- Winter Engagement: Historic and Cultural Resource Study Open House (December)
- Spring Engagement: Virtual Citywide Conversation (May)





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Community Engagement Insights

- Atlanta's diversity lends itself to a variety of spaces and places that are **meaningful** to its residents
- Stronger ties to **land, parks, and public spaces** than originally anticipated
- Opportunity to raise awareness of the corridors' origins as a former **railroad**
- Emphasis on **neighborhood** identification and storytelling



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What We Heard

What types of stories, traditions, or places along the Beltline corridor are most meaningful to you and your community?





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What We Heard

“Civil Rights, environmental justice, native plants”

“The connections to the origins of Atlanta – Atlanta was built on railroads”

“The industrial and civil rights/black culture roots”

“I’d love to see our Legacy Residents honored and allowed to age in their homes (not taxed out).”

“Atlanta is the Birthplace of Culture!”

“More art and plaques honoring native people that inhabited Atlanta (Creek Muskogee)”

“Native landscaping that supports biodiversity and pays homage to indigenous roots”

“Atlanta music! Hip hop, rap, etc. MLK – diversity, multiculturalism – Aquarium”



What do you want Beltline users in 2050 to know about Atlanta's history and culture?

Civil rights, environmental justice, native plants

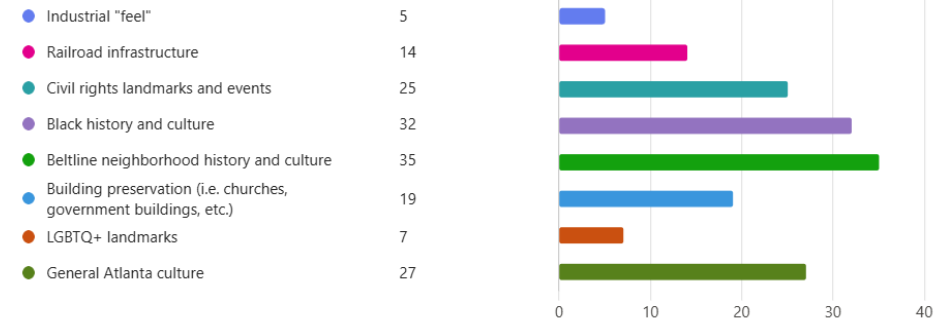


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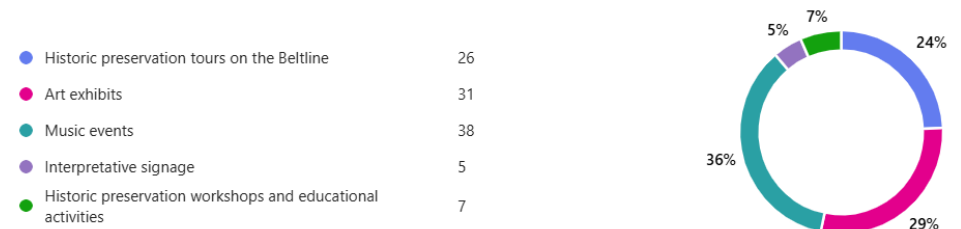
What We Heard

- Opportunity to promote our existing/expanding arts and culture program
- Top three historic themes include:
 - Beltline neighborhood history and culture, Black history and culture, general Atlantan culture
- Top two cultural themes include:
 - Music events and art exhibits
- Specific examples of historic and cultural sites include:
 - Neighborhoods and streets (Auburn Ave, West End, Peoplestown, Old Fourth Ward)

6. Your peers highlighted eight (8) historic themes as a priority on which the Beltline should focus. Please select your top three (3) historic themes that you think the Beltline should focus on incorporating into potential design, programming, and policy. [More details](#)



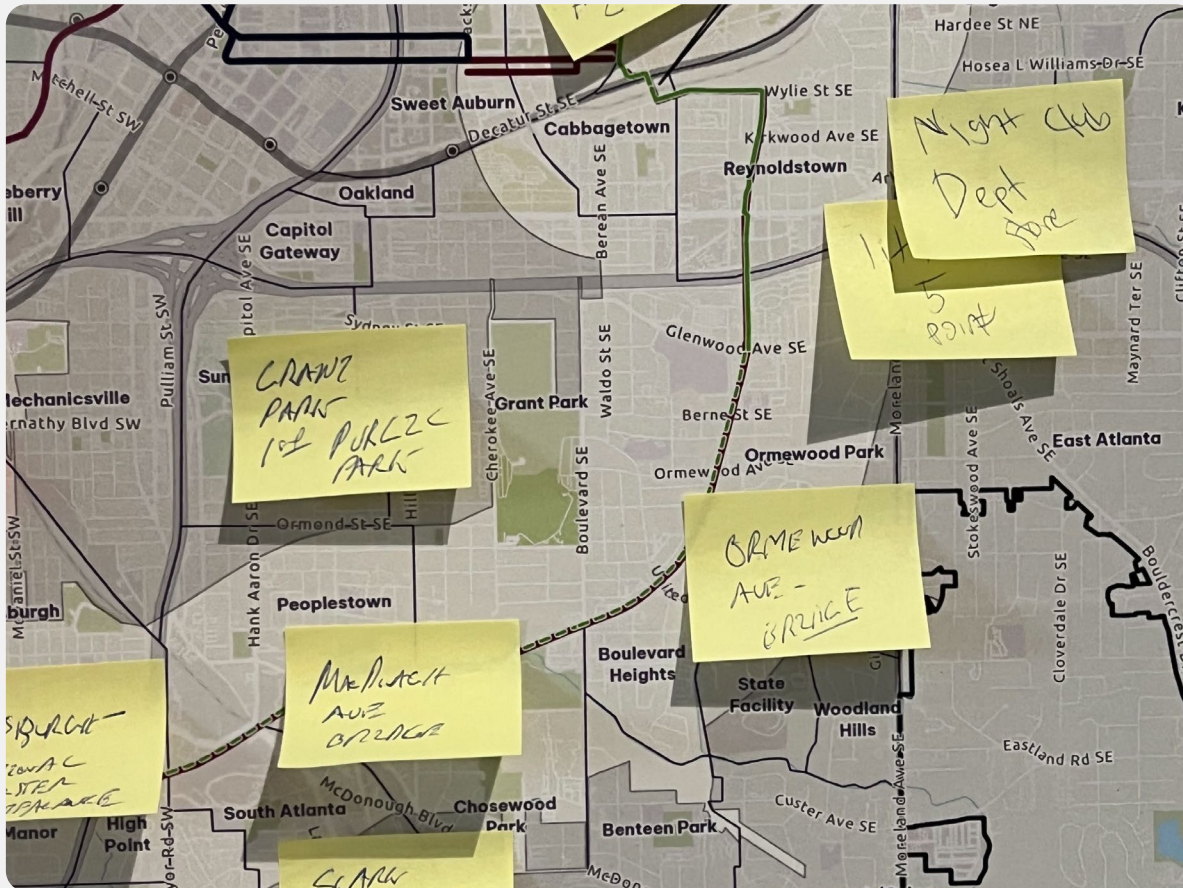
8. Your peers were asked about the different types of cultural programming that would make them feel more connected to the Beltline. Please select your top two cultural programs that you think the Beltline should incorporate into the Beltline vision and program. [More details](#)





What We Heard

Purpose: Understand the places, spaces, and landscapes along the Beltline that are meaningful to the community.



Responses
Patchwork City Farm
Outdoor Activity Center/WAWA
Ormewood Ave Bridge
Cabbagetown Murals near Krog Street
Sampson Lofts – artist community
Piedmont Park – Farmers Market
Ansley/Piedmont Park – ATL History
Orkin Building – great 60s office building
Lake Claire Community Land Trust
Night Club – Dept Store
Little 5 Points
Grant Park – 1 st public Park
Pittsburgh – National Register Significance
More community tie ins to Oakland Cemetery, a huge cultural asset
The art & the creativity & the history & murals
Clark Atlanta Magnolias



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How Feedback Was Used

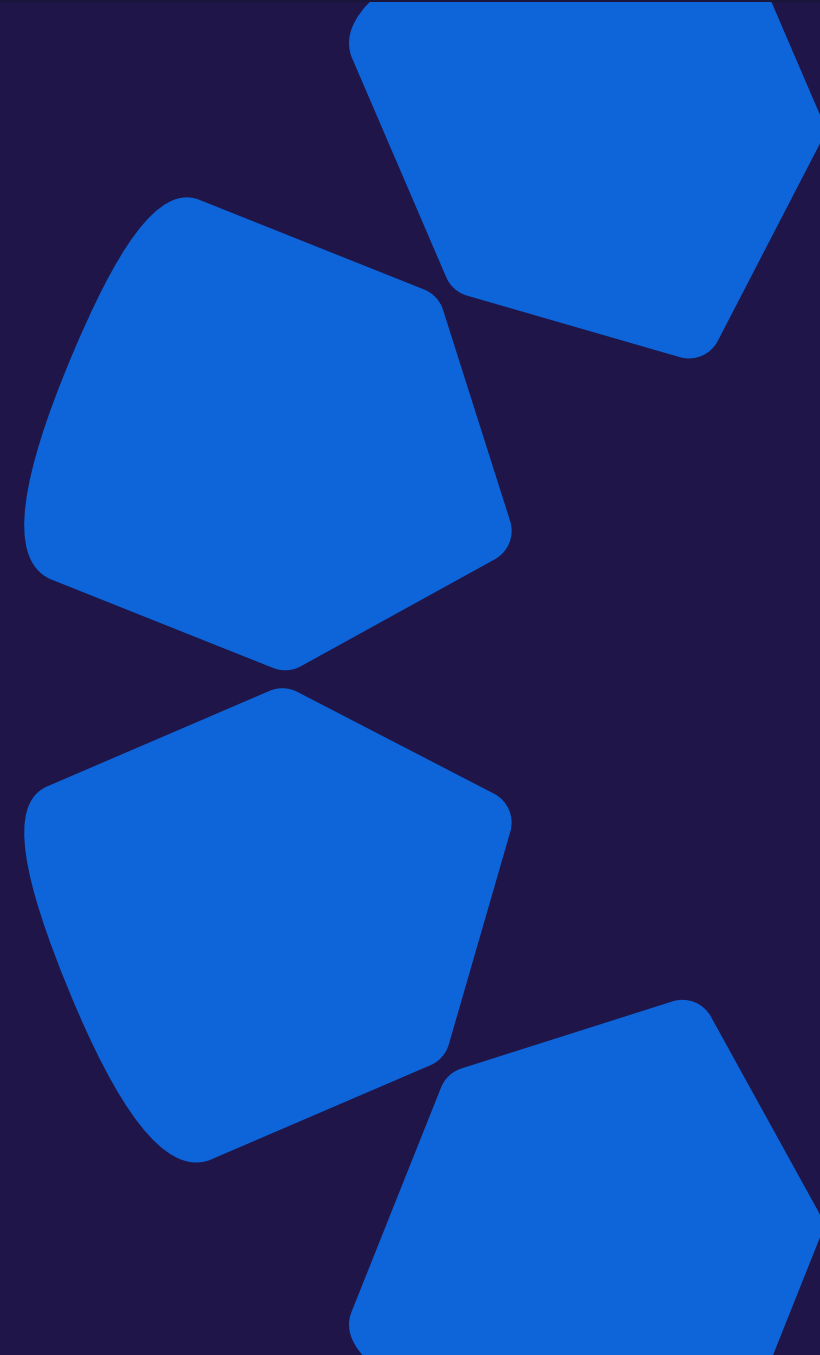
Feedback	Origin	How it was used
Protect the Beltline's industrial character	Technical Stakeholders	Shaped the resource-specific treatment guidelines in covering rail bridges, tunnels, retaining walls, industrial buildings, and cultural landscapes
Beltline neighborhood history and culture is the top interpretive priority	Technical Stakeholders and Community Members	Informed the interpretation framework in the guidelines deliverable and the recommended heritage commissions and mini grant program
Who is responsible? How are decisions made?"	Technical Stakeholders	Led directly to the Preservation Lead function, the Early Screening Checklist , and the defined department roles in the guidelines deliverable
Make it easier to access incentives and understand options	Technical Stakeholders	Produced the Adaptive Reuse Toolkit and the recommendations for periodic incentive workshops
Recognize places that matter to communities, not just formally designated sites	Community Members	Shaped the Places of Community Importance framework and the community records tier of the Corridor Heritage Registry.



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WELCOME > PROJECT RECAP > INVENTORY > CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITY REPORT > GUIDELINES > NEXT STEPS > Q&A

Inventory of Historic Structures, Places and Spaces





Inventory Purpose and Methodology

- Purpose: Develop a comprehensive inventory and summary of historic and cultural information for structures, places, and spaces along the Beltline corridor, spur trails, and Beltline-owned/managed assets
- Methodology:
 - Surveyed all Beltline-owned and -controlled assets
 - Surveyed structures along the corridor that were older than 45 years
- Deliverable:
 - Internal tool
 - Searchable fields that help you distinguish property ownership and NRHP status and eligibility
- Findings
- Next Steps
 - Incorporate this inventory into the “Corridor Heritage Registry Tool” and the implementation of additional recommendations

Industrial
buildings in SW
Atlanta

Legacy rail
infrastructure

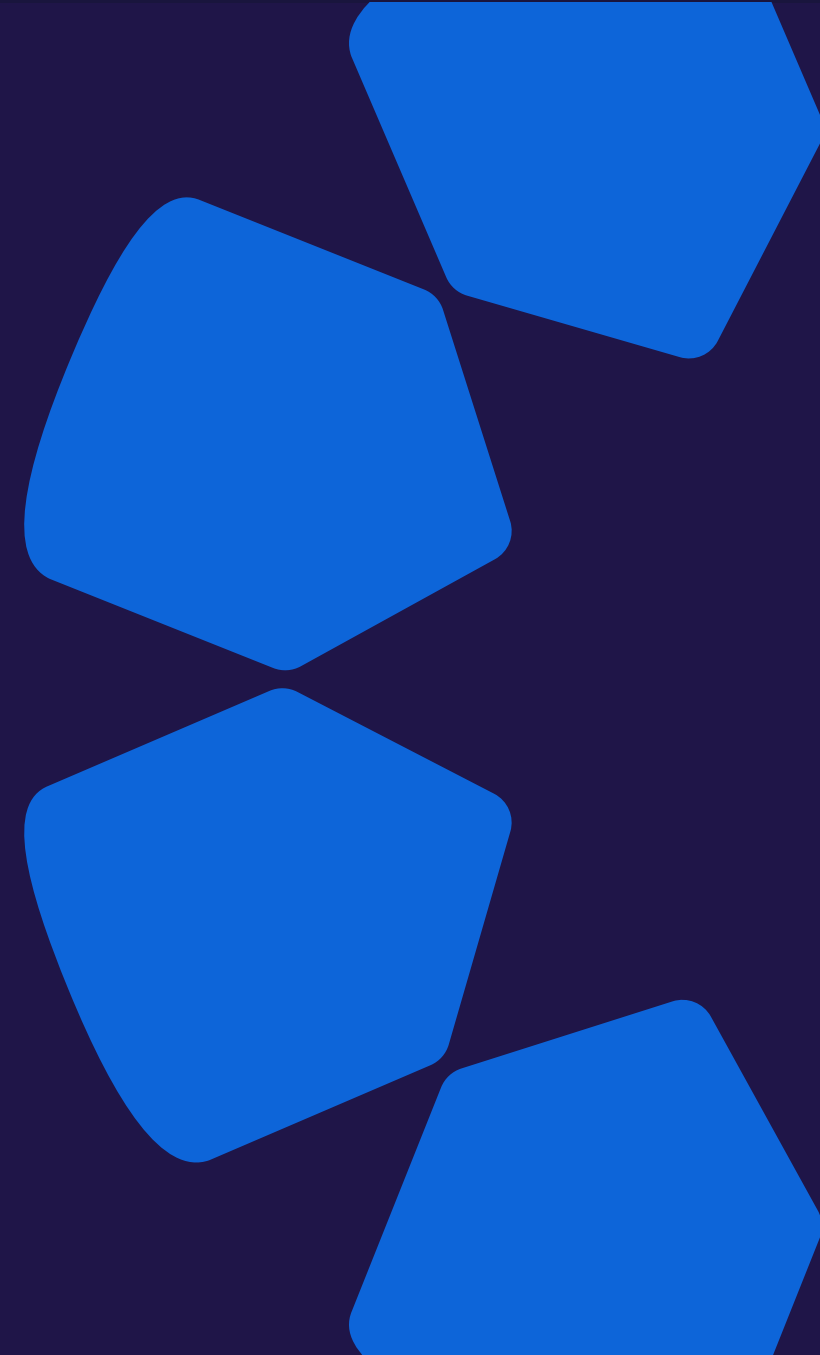
Historically Black
Neighborhoods
Segments



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[WELCOME](#) > [PROJECT RECAP](#) > [INVENTORY](#) > [CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITY REPORT](#) > [GUIDELINES](#) > [NEXT STEPS](#) > [Q&A](#)

Challenges and Opportunities Report





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Mission Statement Summary



- The Historic and Cultural Resource's Mission Statement is designed to be used as standing organizational guidance
- The Beltline is focused on recognizing, documenting, and stewarding historic and cultural resources across the 22-mile corridor
- The Beltline's role is coordination, integration, and visibility.



Challenges and Opportunity Report

Unified Cultural Landscape

Corridor Heritage Registry

History and Culture Online Portal

Adaptive Reuse

Adaptive Reuse Toolkit and Workshops

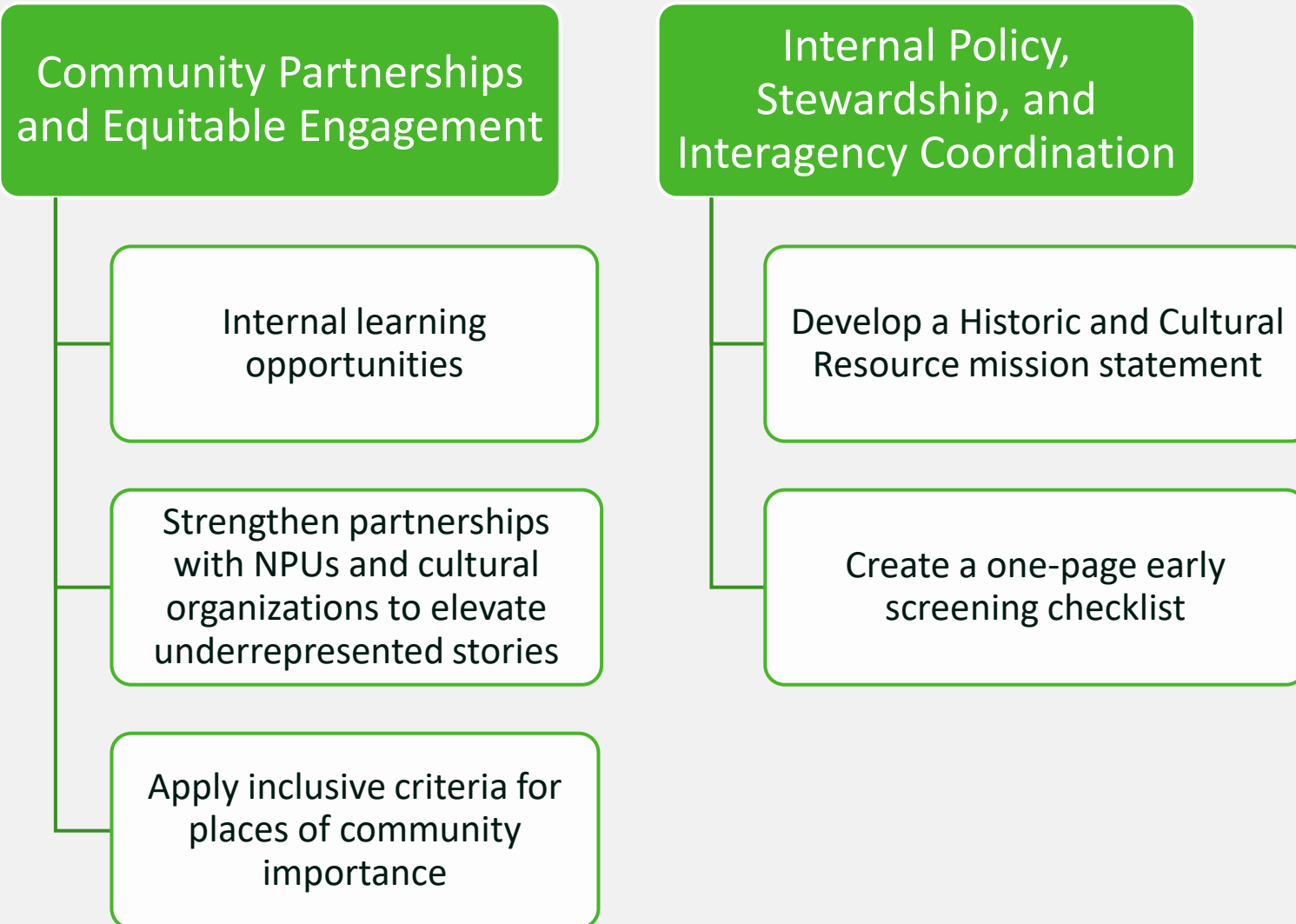
Interpretation and Storytelling

Integrate interpretive content into planned infrastructure

Expand existing programs

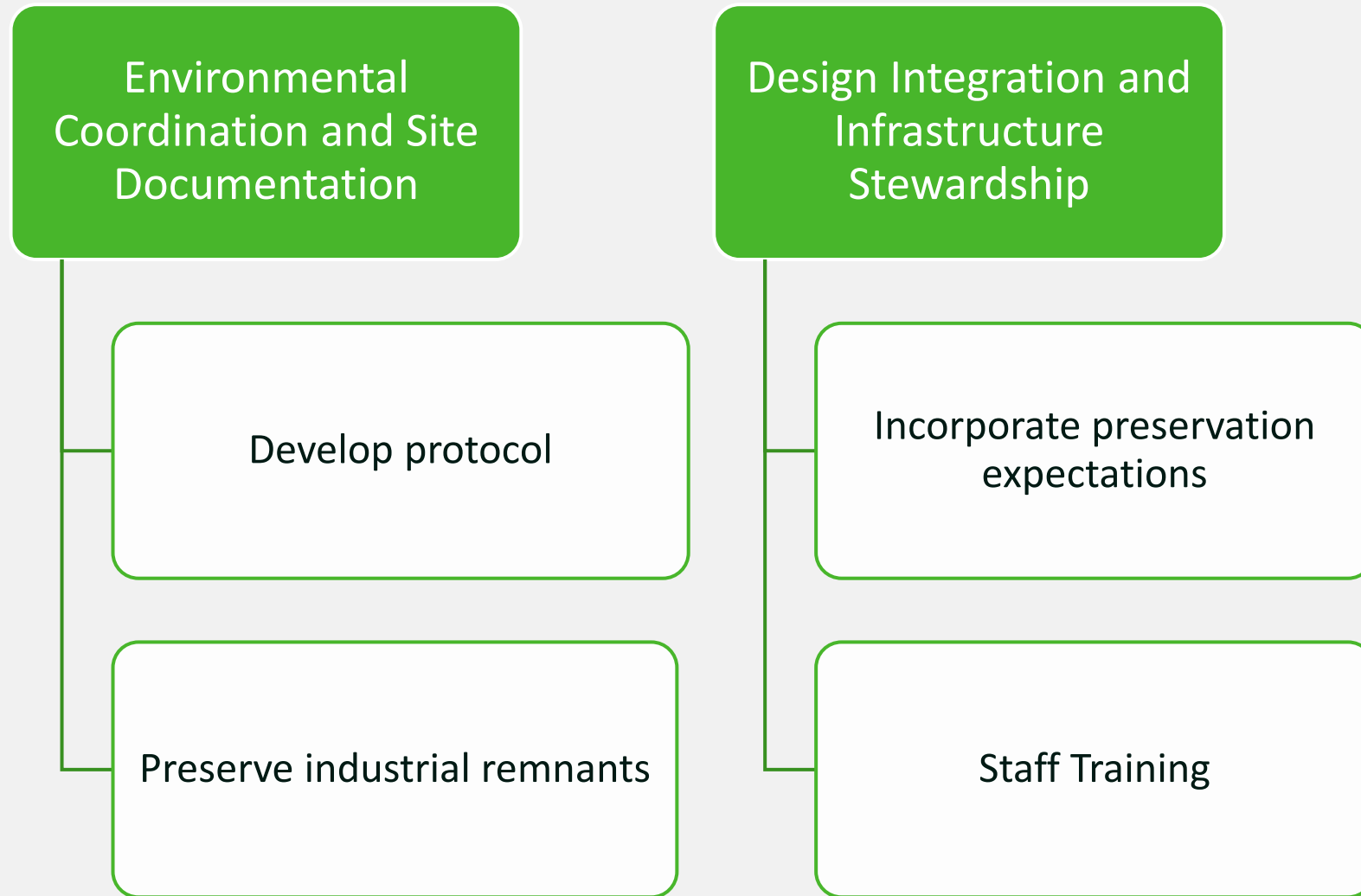


Challenges and Opportunity Report





Challenges and Opportunity Report

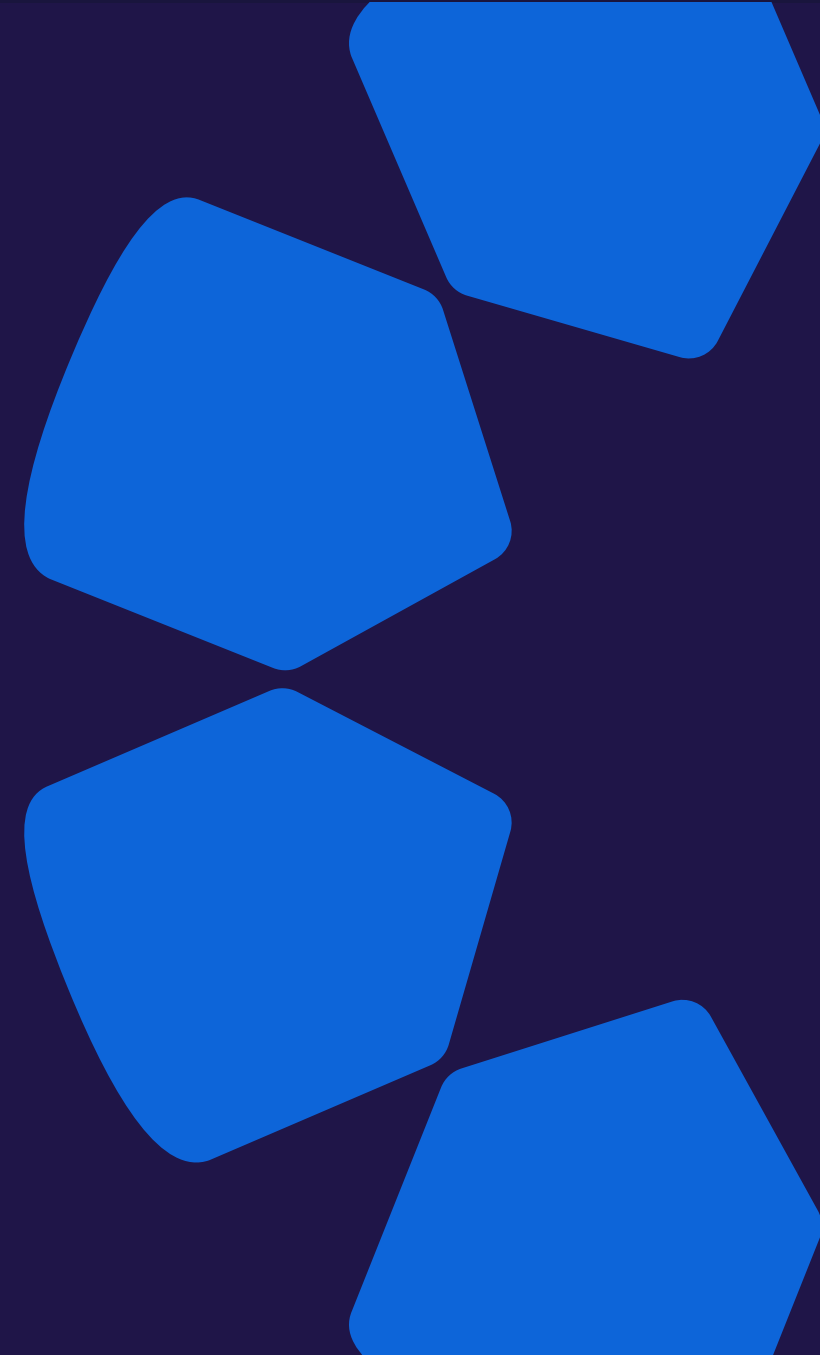




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Historic Preservation Guideline Recommendations





Historic and Cultural Resource Guidelines

- An internal document to the Atlanta Beltline
- Treatment guidance for seven resource types encountered along the corridor
- Preservation indicators tied to the Beltline's existing dashboards
- Grounded in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, adapted to the Beltline's infrastructure and community context

Resource Types

Rail Bridges

Tunnels

Retaining Walls

Culverts

Industrial Buildings and Sites

Cultural Landscapes

Archaeological Features

Places of Community Importance



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Historic and Cultural Resource Guidelines

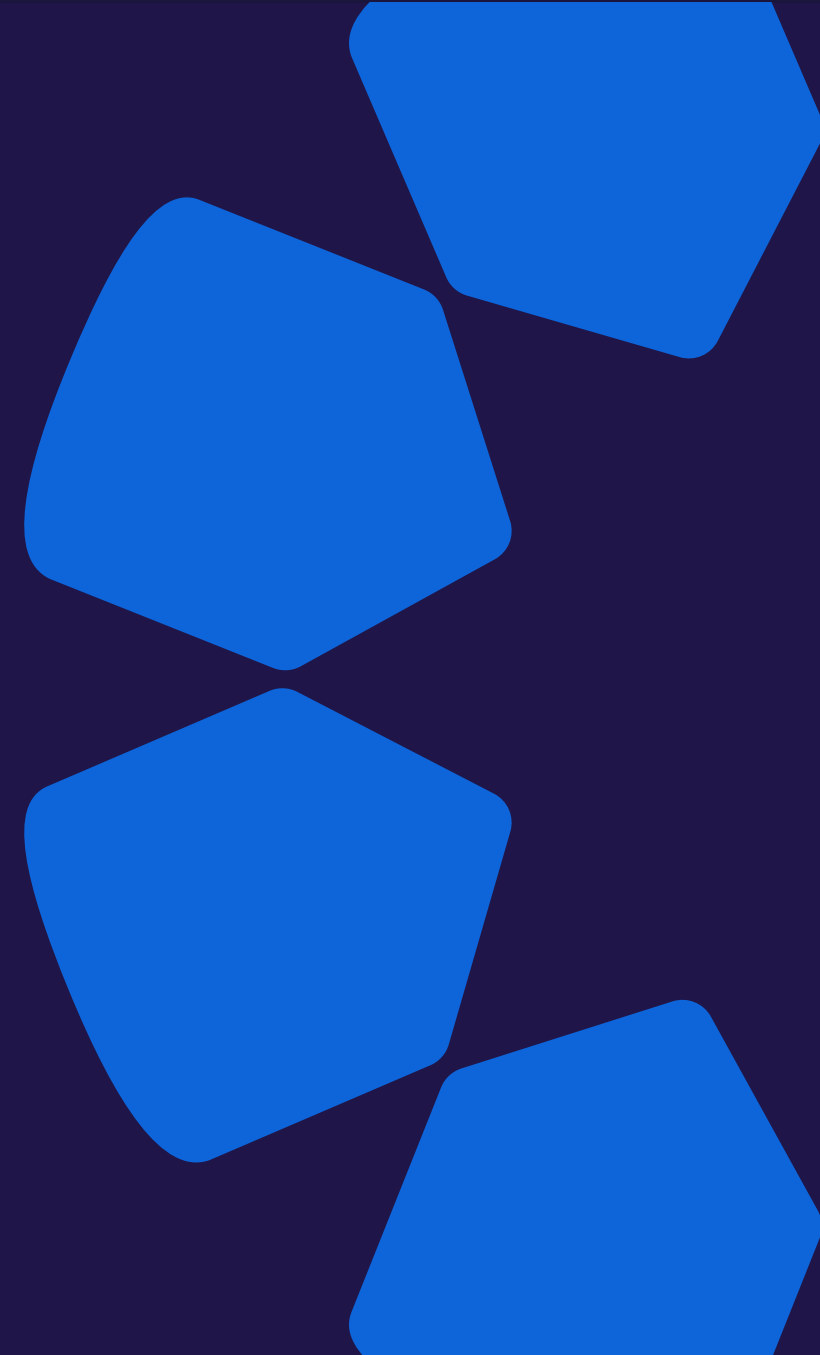


- Three recommended implementation tools:
 - Early Screening Checklist
 - Corridor Heritage Registry
 - Adaptive Reuse Toolkit
- Recommended roles and decision points from project kickoff through closeout
- Written so a project manager can open it at kickoff, complete the Checklist, and know what to do next



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Next Steps





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Next Steps

- **Summer 2026:** Publish the Challenges and Opportunities Report on Beltline's website
- **Fall 2026:** Train Beltline staff to use Guidelines resource
- **Winter 2026:** Kick off implementation of high priority recommendations



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Explore Preservation Month



- City Activities
 - **May 30:** Historic Music Venue & Space Tours: Little Five Points
- Check out the Beltline Blog
 - Explore stories and things to do
 - **June 20 – 21:** Atlanta Beltline Fest
- Atlanta Beltline Art
 - **September 19:** Atlanta Beltline Lantern Parade
 - [Beltline.org/art](https://beltline.org/art) for more
 - Check out pieces like Naw'-tsi?: Caddo Bear Effigy & Railroad Workers



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Storytelling Experience



- Lend your voice to the “People’s Project” through StoryCorps
 - **May 18:** Beltline Day @ Freedom Parkway from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 - **May 19:** Northeast Trail at Park Tavern Parking Lot @ Boulevard from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 - **May 20:** Beltline Marketplace @ Allene from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 - **May 26:** Southeast Trail at Boulevard
 - Share your story from anywhere through the StoryCorps App
- Option to upload recording to the Library of Congress



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Virtual Meeting Question & Answer

Phone Attendees

- Press *9 on telephone keypad to “raise your hand” during the Q&A to indicate you want to speak. Facilitator will unmute your mic.

Online Attendees:

- Submit a question or comment any time in Q&A box.
- The “raise your hand” feature is only available for phone attendees.

Facebook Live Attendees:

- Please feel free to participate in the “Comments Section.” Someone on our staff will make sure I see your questions





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Thank You, TSAC!

We greatly appreciate the Technical Stakeholder Advisory Committee (TSAC) for their support on this project. Your time and expertise have guided the direction and content in this report.

- Adriane Jefferson, Executive Director, City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs
- Amina Cooper, Director of Arts and Culture, Atlanta Beltline, Inc.
- Anthony Knight, Project Manager II for Historic Preservation Studio, City of Atlanta
- Ben Sutton, Senior Director of Preservation and Legislative Advocacy, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation
- Chad Keller, Senior Lecturer and Director, Master of Heritage Preservation Program, Georgia State University
- Collette Haywood, Director of Equitable Development, Partnership for Southern Equity
- David Mitchell, Executive Director, Atlanta Preservation Center
- Douglas Young, Director, Office of Design, City of Atlanta Department of City Planning
- Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies, Morehouse College
- Leslie Sharp, Dean of Libraries, Georgia Tech
- Mary Wilson Joseph, Environmental Review Program Manager, Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Paul Crater, Vice President of Collections and Research Science, Atlanta History Center
- Shaun Green, Principal Engineer, Atlanta Beltline, Inc.
- Stacy Rieke, Environmental Review Program Manager, Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Tamika Strong, Reference Archivist, Auburn Avenue Research Library



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Thank You!

Scan the QR code to share your feedback on tonight's meeting.

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